

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MC-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05

IGA-01 EB-07 /065 W

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R 030850Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2127

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR//ECJ4/7-SAOCD/ECJ2//

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS KU

SUBJ: KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE AND RELATED MATTERS

1. FOR THE PAST YEAR, THE GOK HAS PLACED PRIMARY RELIANCE FOR DESIGNING AND PLANNING THEIR AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM ON A TEAM OF EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE EXPERTS. THESE EXPERTS HAVE ADVISED THE GOK ON BOTH TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF EQUIPMENT TO BE PROCURED.

2. OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, THE AVAILABILITY OF THE TEAM HAS STEADILY DECLINED AND THE PROCEDURES FOR GETTING THEM TO KUWAIT, AS NEEDED, HAVE BECOME MORE AND MORE CUMBERSOME. IN JULY, A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE VICE-COMMANDER OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE HEAD OF THE TEAM SUFFICED. BY DECEMBER, THE REQUEST HAD TO BE PROCESSED THROUGH GOK MOD AND MFA TO GOE MOD AND MFA. ALSO, ARRANGED VISITS WERE BEING POSTPONED DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS.

3. EGYPTIAN TEAM WAS SCHEDULED TO BE IN KUWAIT ON 18JAN75, TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO KUWAITIS ON FINAL SITE SELECTIONS, BUILDING CRITERIA, ETC. FIR IHAWK BATTERIES IN CONNECTION WITH US ARMY IHAWK TEAM VISIT. EGYPTIAN TEAM DID NOT ARRIVE UNTIL 22JAN75. EXPLANATION WAS SIMPLY THAT TEAM WAS NOT INFORMED.

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4. CINC KUWAIT ARMED FORCES, MAJGEN SHAIKH MUBARAK HAS NOW

REQUESTED DOD REP TO LOOK AT THE ENTIRE PLAN, ETC. AND DO WHAT WE (USG) THINK BEST SINCE THEY (KUWAITIS) HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN SUCH MATTERS. THEY HAVE ALSO FOR THE FIRST TIME, PROVIDED FULL ACCESS TO THEIR ENTIRE AIR DEFENSE PLAN AND TWO NEW AIR BASE PLANS.

5. KUWAITI AIR DEFENSE PLAN IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT VITAL INSTALLATIONS IN/AROUND KUWAIT CITY, THE TWO NEW AIRBASES, THE OIL TOWN OF AHMADI, THE OIL PORT OF MINA AL AHMADI AND THE SHUAIBA INDUSTRIAL AREA. VITAL INSTALLATIONS ARE PRIMARILY WATER DISTILLATION, ELECTRICITY GENERATING PLANTS, SHWAIKH PORT AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. PLAN CALLS FOR TWO 3D EW/GCI RADARS (AN/TPS-32), 6 IHAWK FIRING SITES, 6 GAP FILLER RADARS, 42 CONVENTIONAL AAA/CLOSE IN AIR DEFENSE WEAPON POSITIONS PLUS AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OR TYPE OF LIGHTWEIGHT, SHORT RANGE WEAPONS, FOR DEFENSE OF TROOPS IN FORWARD AREAS. ORGANIZATION OF CLOSE IN AIR DEFENSE IS TO BE TWO AAA REGIMENT (US BATTALION SIZE). OTHER THAN THE TPS-32 AND IHAWK, EQUIPMENT HAS NOT BEEN SELECTED.

7. PLAN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE PRIOR TO SELECTION OF SITES FOR TWO NEW AIRBASES (ONE ABOUT 15 MILES SOUTH OF PRESENT KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL AND THE OTHER ABOUT 15 MILES WNW OF KUWAIT INTL), AND ALTERED TO TRY AND ACCOMMODATE THE NEW BASES. DOD REP'S GENERAL ASSESSMENT IS THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO STRETCH 4 IHAWK BATTERIES TOO FAR, LEAVING THE MOST LIKELY ROUTE OF ATTACK UNCOVERED.

8. MICOM TEAM HAS LOCATED 8 SITES IN CONJUNCTION WITH EGYPTIAN TEAM WHICH WILL BE REVIEWED, ETC. BY GOK FOR LAND AVAILABILITY, ETC. OVERALL DISPOSITION AND LOW ALTITUDE COVERAGE WILL REQUIRE SOME CAREFUL STUDY BEFORE USG CAN ENDORSE. MICOM PROVISIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER WILL REFER TO ARMY AIR DEFENSE BOARD FOR OPINIONS, ETC.

9. DEPTH OF EGYPTIAN ADVICE WAS LIMITED TO FINAL END ITEM HARDWARE (IHAWK) AND PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO STUDY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS OTHER EQUIPMENT REQUIRED, OR OTHER PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS MOTOR TRANSPORT, CLERICAL, ETC. ALSO, CONFIDENTIAL

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EGYPTIANS APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN COORDINATING MISSILE AIR DEFENSE WITH OTHER AIR OPERATIONS SUCH AS AIR-TO-AIR FIGHTERS AND CLOSE AIR SUPPORT.

10. ACCORDING TO VICECMDR OF KAF, MAJGEN SHAIKH MUBARAK DESIRES FOUR US OFFICERS TO ASSIST THEM WITH THEIR AIR DEFENSE (DOD REP WAS PRESENT AT DISCUSSION BETWEEN THESE OFFICERS, HOWEVER, CONVERSATION WAS MOSTLY IN ARABIC, WITH VICECMDR SUMMARIZING

AT END). OFFICERS DESIRED ARE:

- A. AIR DEFENSE AND IHAWK EXPERIENCED OFFICER
- B. AIR DEFENSE PLANS OFFICER
- C. COMMUNICATION OFFICER (AIR CONTROL/AIR DEFENSE EXPERIENCED).
- D. AAA OFFICER TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE CLOSE IN AIR DEFENSE
REGIMENT (NOTE: GOK HAS QUOTE BATTALION UNQUOTE OF TOWED
20 MM AAA OF ANCIENT VINTAGE).

IT WAS ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD WELCOME ANY RECOM-
MENDATIONS WE CARE TO MAKE ON NUMBERS AND QUALIFICATIONS OF
PERSONNEL TO DO QUOTE WHAT IS NEEDED UNQUOTE. SUBSEQUENTLY,
A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION WAS RECEIVED BY AMBASSADOR FROM MINDEF
FORMALLY REQUESTING SUCH ASSISTANCE (TEXT BEING SENT SEPTTEL).

1. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVICE AS TO NATURE OF RESPONSE WHICH
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO MINDEF LETTER.
STOLTZFUS

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